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part of Brissaud's work, "The Sources of French Law" (not yet translated). Voltaire's gibe that in travelling through France one changed laws oftener than he did horses can be substantiated by a glance at this map. At one time prior to the Code Napoleon some 300 customs (*coutumes*) prevailed in France. But the fact that all this chaos of law was at last transformed into *one* uniform and *codified* law for all France should impart strength and encouragement to the advocates of the movement for one single uniform and codified private law for the United States—a gigantic but not impossible task.

C. P. S.

The Essentials of International Public Law. By Amos S. Hershey, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science and International Law in Indiana University. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1912. \$3.00 net. pp. vi, 558.

The modest title of this work scarcely prepares the reader for the singularly complete treatment of a great subject contained in its closely-packed pages. By means of a carefully carried out plan of relegating illustrative and explanatory matter to a series of voluminous notes, the author has admirably succeeded in the preparation of a text which is, in itself, a trustworthy statement of present-day international principles of action, while a student finds at the bottom of each page, as well as in the Table of Cases and List of Authorities placed at the beginning of the book, a guide to detailed study quite sufficient for the most exacting demands of the class-room or of private study. Such a plan necessarily excludes appendices which are often undeniably useful to have readily at hand, but which could not have been given here without an undue expansion of the volume's size. Some omissions of a few words in explanation of cited cases are, perhaps, inevitable in a book whose scope is distinctly limited. We miss, too, some familiar friends, such as *de Langchamps Case* (1 Dallas, 111), *Talbot v. Seeman* (1 Cranch, 1, etc.), *Triquet v. Bath* (3 Burrow, 1478), and in the difficult subject of *Real Unions* (pp. 102-103) something might be gained by a reference to Rivier, whose definition is singularly clear. But these are minor defects and cannot detract from the work's pronounced capacity for usefulness. Prof. Hershey is already favorably known to many through his

volume on The International Law and Diplomacy of the Russo-Japanese War, as well as articles in the *American Journal of International Law* on the Calvo and Diago doctrines. "The Essentials" will add to his reputation and make for him many new friends.
G. E. S.

The Inheritance Tax Law; Containing All American Decisions and Existing Statutes. By Arthur W. Blakemore, of the Boston Bar, and Hugh Bancroft, formerly District Attorney, Northern District of Massachusetts. Boston. The Boston Book Co. 1912. pp. 1376.

Inheritance taxes, though imposed by the Emperor Augustus in ancient Rome, and even by the Egyptians in the seventh century before Christ, are a comparatively recent development in our country. Pennsylvania in 1826, so our authors tell us, was the first of our States to impose such a tax; while there was no general movement in this direction until about 1891, when Connecticut and Massachusetts, among others, passed their first succession tax statutes; and many of our States have yet to adopt this most commendable method of paying our debts to our government. Hence, the authorities on this subject are few, and there is room for a careful review, like the volume under consideration, of just what has been accomplished by courts and legislatures in creating a law governing inheritance taxation. The authors do not attempt to state what the law should be, or even to formulate a comprehensive system of correlated parts and expound that as the present law. That is left to some future writer, but the present work accomplishes well the pioneer task of setting forth, as our authors tell us, "all the American decisions and existing statutes". Consequently, when read as a treatise on the law it is a little confusing, for cases seem to come tumbling one after the other in wild abandon. But as a work of reference, especially to the probate lawyer, it is of well-nigh invaluable assistance, for here he has all the material on the entire subject at his very fingertips. And it is designed, as the preface says, not only for the lawyer, but also for the banker and the investor. To this end are printed all the existing statutes of the States, tables of the more important corporations, and other matter of material aid to lawyers and laymen, among which a chapter on "Methods of Avoiding the Tax" must not be overlooked.